

SPIDER-MAN

15¢ 75  
IND. AUG

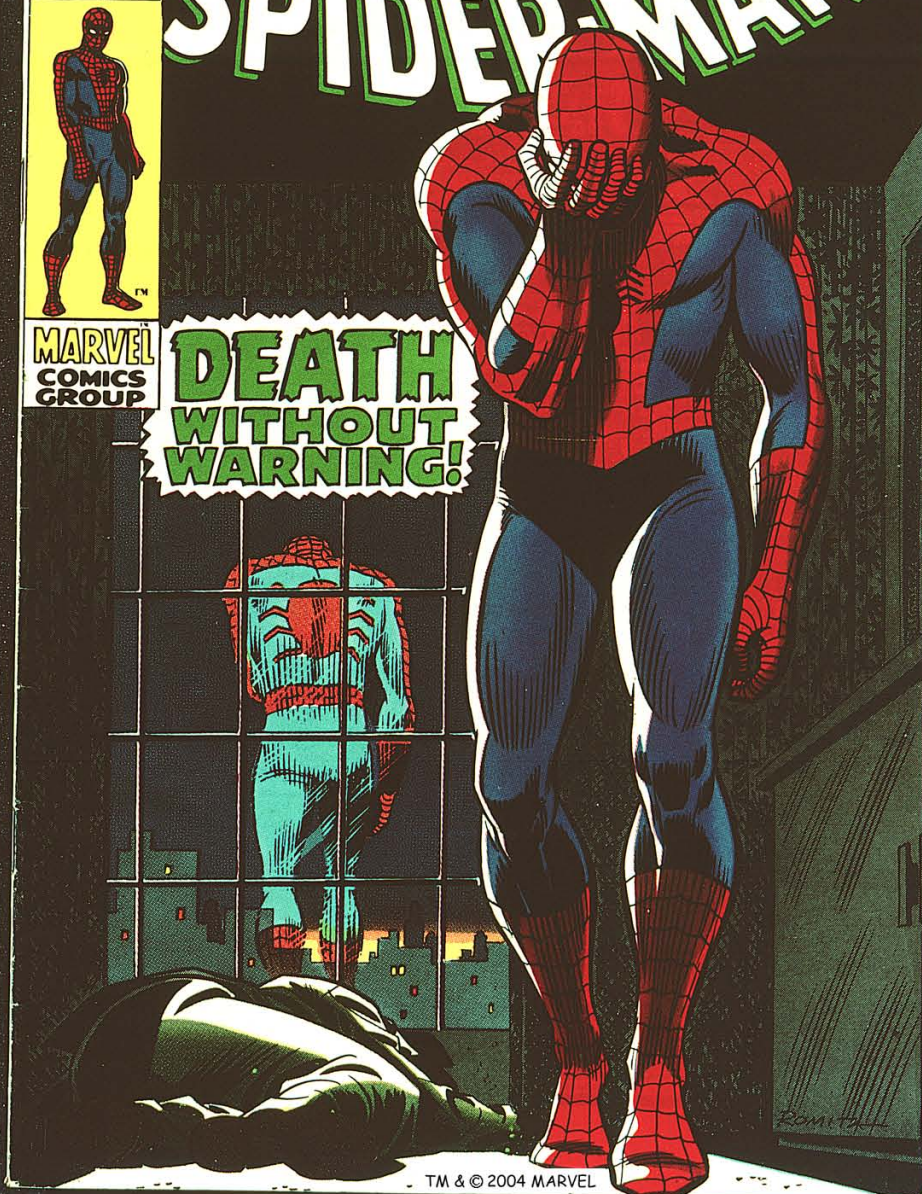


MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

DEATH  
WITHOUT  
WARNING!





# MR. AMERICA-MR. UNIVERSE

## SECRET MUSCLE-BUILDING "TOOLS"

TO "CARVE" YOUR BODY  
INTO MUSCULAR SHAPE

**JOE WEIDER** Dept. 83-79P3  
"Trainer of the Champions"  
531-32nd St.  
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### GERMAN IRON HORSESHOE

Add 2" of sinews to your arms the way the oldtime strongmen did... and as Chuck Sipes, "Mr. Universe" has done. A few minutes daily use makes your arms swell with fierce new strength and size! Also develops your chest and shoulders all at the same time! Chromed-steel construction with thick rubber handles for easy gripping. Built for lifetime use.

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### 120 LBS. "BIG 16" BARBELL SET

Now pack muscle on your body wherever you need it most—like all the "Mr. America", "Mr. Universe" champs—with this fabulous set. Use the barbell for herculean power; the dumbbells for sculptured muscle; swingbell for waist-line perfection; kettlebells for "yard-wide" shoulders; iron-boots for "jet-powered" legs. Headstart for "wrestler-sized" neck.

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### "007" POWER TWISTER

Like Mr. America, Dave Draper, you can twist for 10 minutes daily with this exciting new exerciser! Packs power and muscle into your arms—adds inches to your chest—builds rippling back muscles—thickens and strengthens your wrists for sports or work. Fun to use. Needs no adjusting or setting—twist it instantly—as it comes out of the box!

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Puts fearsome, "octopus"-gripping power into your hands and fingers. New—specially imported from the Karate Masters of Japan. Use it 5 minutes daily and feel new strength and deadly power surge into your hands instantly! Develops a powerful grip for all sports! Builds "Mr. Universe" wrists and forearms. Sturdy but lightweight—take it with you ANYWHERE!

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A gym you can carry in your suitcase or traveling bag! Easy, enjoyable way to exercise for a more complete development of your arms, chest and back. Used by champion athletes and bodybuilders. Each set contains: 5 chromed Swedish steel cables with handles; 2 barbell combination attachments; rowing machine attachment; foot stirrups; hand-grips.

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### LARRY SCOTT'S SECRET MUSCLE-BUILDING COURSES—ONLY 98c EACH

King of the bodybuilders Larry Scott reveals all his muscle-building secrets in these 7 great courses:

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### ATHLETIC IRON BOOTS

Used by Frank Zane, "Mr. Eastern America" to strengthen and fill out his legs with solid muscle. Build your legs or trim them down (if they're too "fleshy"). Knock inches of unsightly fat off your mid-section, hips, waist. Strap them on like roller skates—get results in only a few minutes daily use. Safe, easy-to-use. Ideal for home/apartment use.

Complete with Free 125-page course.....\$6.95\*



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Saves your feet, knees, back and head when doing standing, kneeling and lying down exercises. Great for wrestling, and gymnastics, and hand-balancing. Helps prevent scratches, bruises and minor injuries. Made of soft, lightweight but durable material (poly-foam-filled). Measures 41" x 72". Folds into easy, compact size. Wipes clean with a damp cloth. Use as beach mat, too.

Weights only 5 lbs.....\$9.95\*



### CRASH-WEIGHT FORMULA #7 PLAN

"Drink-On-Up-To-A-Pound-A-Day" — the pleasant, natural way! One can mixes instantly into a quart of milk for a super-packed delicious drink with 1800 easy-to-digest calories. In 2 delicious flavors: chocolate or vanilla (indicate your choice). Includes Free 48-page weight-gaining course.

7-Day Supply.....\$6.50\*  
14-Day Supply.....\$12.98\*



### SUPER-PRO "101" The Liquid Meal-In-A-Can for active people.

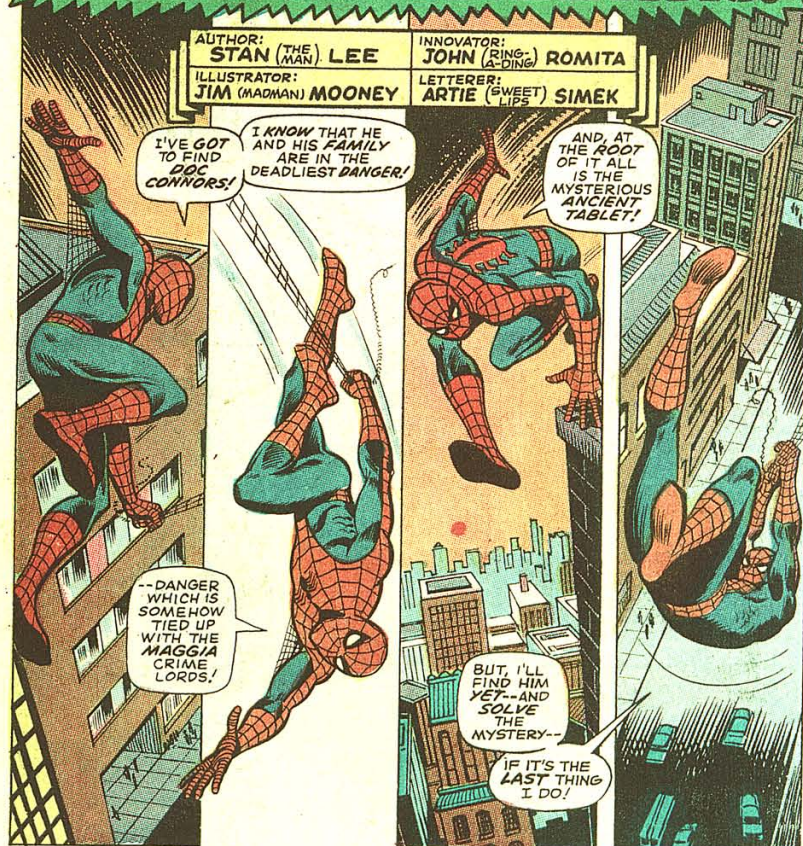
SUPER-PRO "101" is a superior muscle-building product used by every champion for daily "protein insurance." One can: 30 grams of complete protein equals the protein of a large steak dinner. Easy-to-digest—rushes to your muscles for fast gains! In 3 tasty flavors: vanilla, chocolate, eggnog (indicate your choice).

12-can pak.....\$9.95\*

# THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! "DEATH WITHOUT WARNING!"

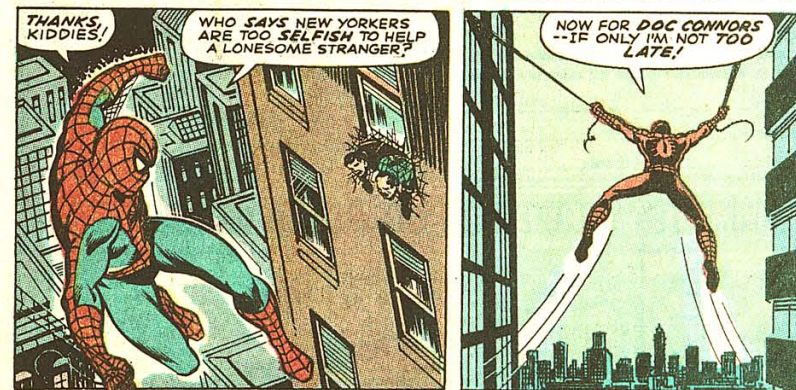
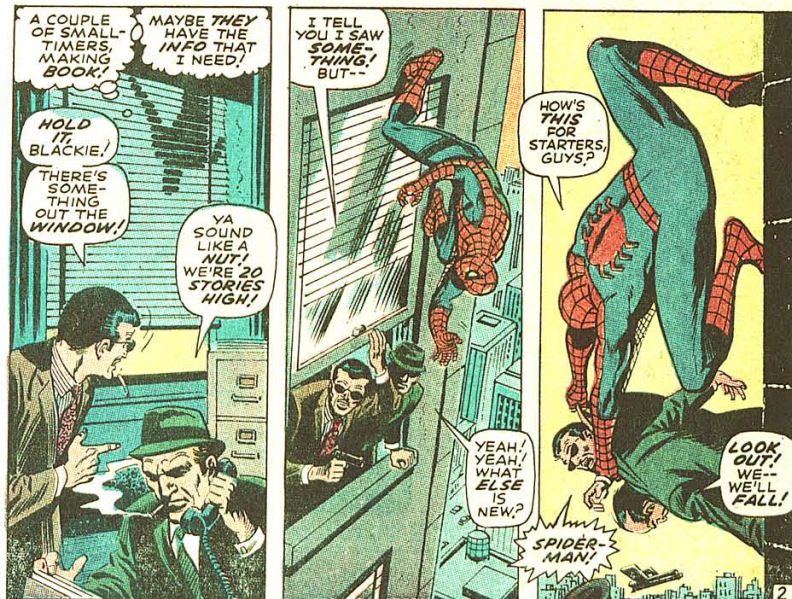
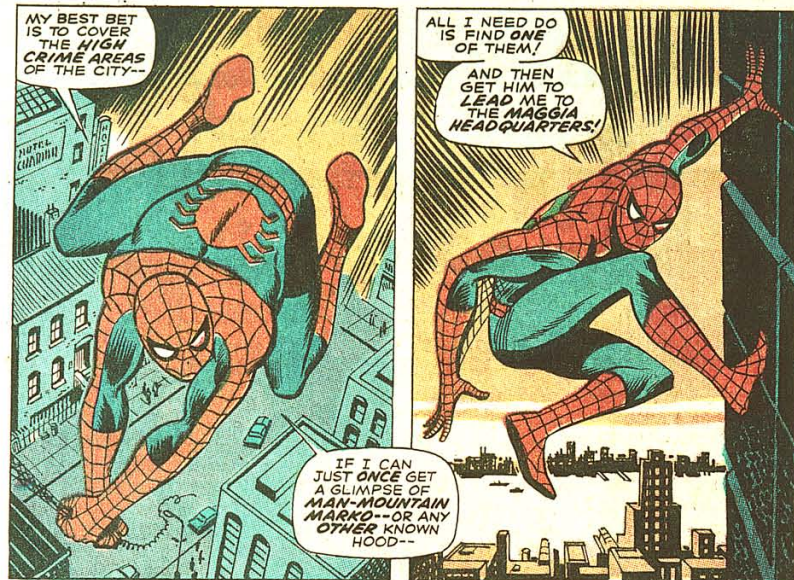
AUTHOR:  
**STAN (THE MAN) LEE**  
ILLUSTRATOR:  
**JIM (MADMAN) MOONEY**

INNOVATOR:  
**JOHN (RING-A-DING!) ROMITA**  
LETTERER:  
**ARTIE (SWEET LIPS) SIMEK**



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is published by MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT CO., INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N. Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly except November, semi-monthly. Copyright ©1969 by Magazine Management Co., Inc. Marvel Comics Group, all rights reserved. 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 75, August, 1969 issue. 15¢ per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. by World Color Press, Inc., Sparta, Illinois 62286. Subscription rate \$2.00 and \$2.50 Canada for 12 issues including postage. Foreign subscriptions \$4.75. Prices do not include King Size Special November Issue.





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# "SURPRISE" \$1 COIN PACKET

Thousands of old coins up to 100 years old GUARANTEED at least \$1.00 current catalog value and packaged... ready to go! Many packets may contain coins worth much more!

These packets were put together from huge collections started many years ago, containing most types of coins. For only \$1 you may find:

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Thousands packed, ready to mail 'grab-bag' style. Send your \$1 today. You may find:

- GOLD COINS!
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- UNCIRCULATED!
- SILVER CROWNS!

**SPECIAL!**  
Guaranteed \$6 worth for only \$5  
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Rush me your SURPRISE packet. I enclose (\$1) (\$5) (\$10). Which is refundable if I am not completely satisfied:

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**SUPER SMOKE SCREEN**  
Lights easily. Creates a huge column of thick white smoke that rises and expands into a dense cloud. Used for Tricks, T.V., Movies and Stage stunts. Sensational surprising effect.  
No. 101 25c Each \$5 for \$1.00

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Don't be bullied! Protect yourself without weapons. Used by FBI, police, secret agents. With a simple twist of the wrist or a light jab, you can make someone twice your size and weight completely helpless. Requires barely any effort. It's brains not muscle that does it. Order now and receive a Free Karate Certificate with each course. Show it to your friends or hang it on the wall.  
No. 120 \$1.98

**SECRET AGENT SPY CAMERA**  
Easily concealed in the palm of your hand. Takes secret or surprise pictures as well as regular candid shots. Solid all metal construction. Precision ground lenses. Speed, 1/25th of a second and time exposure. Takes 10 pictures per roll.  
No. 109 Camera only \$1.00  
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**AGH-CHOO SNEEZING POWDER**  
Place a little of this powder on your hand. Blow into the air, step back and watch the fun begin. Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys.  
No. 104 25c Each \$5 for \$1.00

**SNOWSTORM TABLETS**  
Create a miniature snowstorm indoors. Will actually cover a whole room. Watch the fun start when you place one of these almost invisible tablets on the burning end of a cigarette. Watch them run for the snow shovel.  
No. 106 25c pkg. \$5 pkg. \$1.00

**HYPO-COIN Free With 25 LESSONS IN HYPNOTISM**  
Do you realize the power that hypnotism will give you? With the magic power of hypnosis you can hypnotize at a glance, make people obey your commands, strengthen your memory, develop a strong personality overcome bad habits. 25 lessons covers this and much more. Send now and see for yourself how surprisingly simple hypnotism really is.  
No. 130 \$1.00

**EXPLODING FOUNTAIN PEN**  
Looks like a regular fountain pen. But when they start to write... Look out! It goes off with a bang like a hand grenade! Can be used over and over. Harmless.  
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**SILENT DOG WHISTLE**  
Special super-sonic features makes this whistle silent so that the human ear cannot hear it. But your dog can and will respond instantly over 1/2 mile away. Amaze everyone. With this whistle you can teach your dog tricks quickly and easily. All steel construction.  
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AND, SPEAKING OF ACTION--LET'S JUMP THE GUN A BIT AND REACH SPIDEY'S GOAL BEFORE HIM--

I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T KILL SILVERMANE!

LET GO OF ME, MARKO--WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

SILVERMANE--NO! IT--IT CAN'T BE YOU! IT CAN'T!

YOU'RE--AN OLD MAN--WITH ONE FOOT--IN THE GRAVE!

USE YOUR HEAD, YOU OVERSIZED SIMPLETON!

THIS WAS THE PRICELESS SECRET OF THE ANCIENT TABLET--!

THE SECRET COUNTLESS MEN HAD LIVED--AND DIED FOR--

THE SECRET OF ETERNAL YOUTH!

WHAT'RE YA HANDIN' ME, MISTER?

NOBODY CAN GIT 40 YEARS YOUNGER--JUST ON ACCOUNTA SOME NUTTY FORMULA!

YER IN CAHOOTS WITH CONNORS, THAT'S WHAT!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, YOU BLUNDERING OAF!

STUDY MY FACE --IS IT NOT THE SAME-- ONLY YOUNGER?

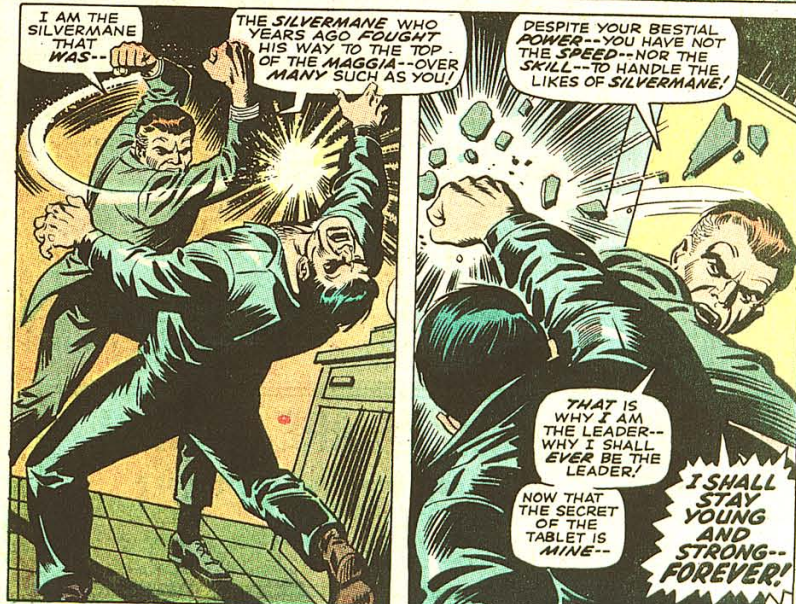
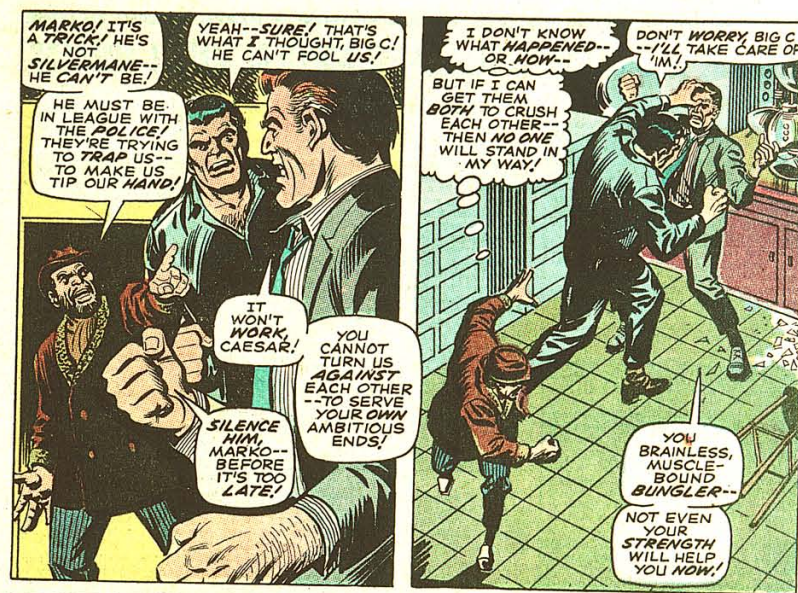
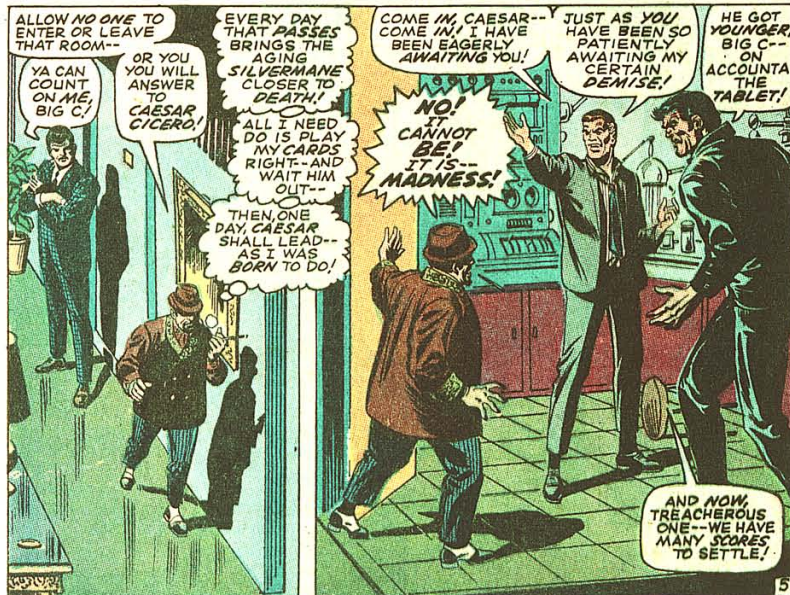
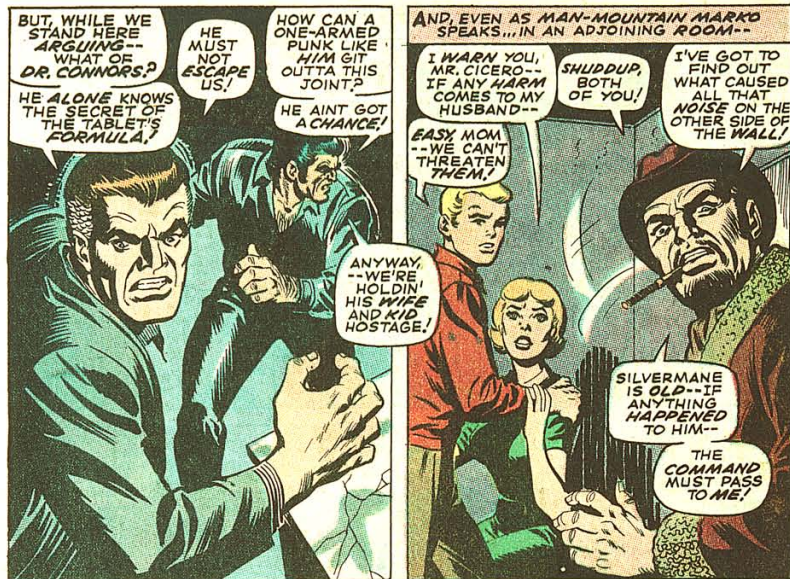
NOW TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO SILVERMANE --OR I'LL TAKE YA APART!

IS MY VOICE NOT THE VOICE THAT HAS EVER COMMANDED YOU?

I AM STILL SILVERMANE! I AM STILL YOUR LEADER!

BUT NOW--I POSSESS BOTH THE YOUTH--AND THE STRENGTH--TO BE THE GREATEST MAGGIA CHIEFTAIN OF ALL!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



## WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL, WAY-OUT WORLD OF MARVEL MADNESS!

We're cramped for space this ish, so we'll make it short and sweet —

**ITEM!** You've heard how comedians always dream of playing Hamlet? Well, Trusty TOM SUTTON, who's been one of the humorous mainstays of NOT BRAND ECHH, has always wanted to tackle penicillin a superhero strip. And so we urge you to latch on to this month's CAPTAIN MARVEL — new artwork — new approach — new thrills — but the same ol' loveable Tom, just a'doin' his thing!

**ITEM!** Big news! We've some brand new mags coming up for you next month! They're in the spooky story and the romance categories — and all in the modern, meaningful Marvel manner. So save your money, bunny, and go easy on luxuries like food, clothing, and shelter. Watch these pages next ish and be ready for anything!

**ITEM!** Didja notice the new MARVEL SUPER-HEROES? Nothing to get excited about — all it contains is some honest-to-Forbush Lee-Kirby AVENGERS, featuring the HULK, THOR, IRON MAN, SUB-MARINER — plus Lee-Kirby's X-MEN, and a few more surprises! If it's already sold out, now you know why!

**ITEM!** Generous GEORGIE KLEIN finally took the plunge and got himself wedded a few weeks ago — after one of the longest engagements on record — a mere 18 years! One thing we've gotta say about of George — he'd be okay if he weren't so impetuous!

**ITEM!** Here's one of the latest Marvel-mention record albums we've heard of — it's the new MOTHER EARTH smasheroo, entitled "Living with the Animals," and the very first number is called "Marvel Group!" (Ta ta ta, ta ta) 'Twas penned by vocalist POWELL ST. JOHN, and brought to our attention by manager TRAVIS RIVERS, who personally gave us a few complimentary copies! Many thanks, gang — it's the wildest!

**ITEM!** No more items! (Nyahhhh)

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST  
Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

**SILVER SURFER #7:** Once again the name of FRANKENSTEIN spreads fear throughout the land — and only the SILVER SURFER can save mankind from the strangest threat of all!

**FANTASTIC FOUR #89:** The return of the dreaded SKULLS! But this time, it isn't merely earth that's in dire danger — the target for an unintentional fate is — the unsuspecting THING!

**SPIDER-MAN #75:** From out of nowhere, a startling sudden DEATH now strikes without warning — even as a newer, more fearful SUPER-FOE arises once more to menace our weary web-slinger!

## STAN'S SOAPBOX

As you've already noticed, the price of our magnificent mags has just risen from 12¢ to 15¢... but far be it from us to make so monumental a move without cluing you in to the whys and wherefores. At a time when the prices of just about everything you can think of keep rising daily, our mighty Marvels have been holding the line at 12¢ for the past seven years! However, in our never-ending efforts to bring you nothing but the very best, we have regularly increased the payments that we make to artists, writers, printers, etc. It's finally reached the point where we MUST raise our selling price to 15¢ or sacrifice the quality of our comics — and THAT we would never do. That's it, Believer... the whole ball of wax. But how, let's look at the bright side — today you can buy our majestic Marvel mags even faster... 'cause you don't have to fumble around with pennies! Just another glowing example of how we strive eternally to make your life easier.

Excelsior!  
Smiley

**AVENGERS #66:** The one you've been waiting for! THOR and IRON MAN return to the ranks! But, can even they prevail when the vengeful VISION goes wild? Plus a cataclysmic surprise ending!

**X-MEN #58:** The sinister SENTINELS seem on the verge of total victory over earth's mutants — then, enter the X-Men, and the mysterious man called... HAVOK! It's a brain-blaster!

**DAREDEVIL #54:** From out of the perilous past — with the one power which DD cannot fight — comes the mad MR. FEAR! Also — the seeming death of Matt Murdock! Shock follows shock!

**MIGHTY THOR #166:** At last the GOD OF THUNDER loses his cool and goes berserk! If it's action you're after, don't miss this staggering showdown between THOR and — HIM!

**CAPTAIN AMERICA #116:** Never has the RED SKULL been more powerful — or CAP more helpless! Trapped by the COSMIC CUBE — there can be no escape! Not for the faint-hearted!

**INCREDIBLE HULK #118:** Green-Skin battles the sensational SUB-MARINER! What more need we say — except to tell you that STAN THE MAN and HAPPY HERBIE TRIMPE bought a dozen each themselves!

**IRON MAN #116:** The most unexpected team-up of all — Shellhead and the uncanny UNICORN — against the rampaging RED GHOST! And wait'll you learn how ol' Ghosty plans to conquer the world!

**SUB-MARINER #16:** We call this one "The Sea That Time Forgot!" — but you'll never forget what happens when Namor clashes with the evil TIGER SHARK — in the weirdest setting yet!

**CAPTAIN MARVEL #15:** Mission — Destroy the Kree Galaxy! This is the awesome command of the almighty ZO to the man called Mar-Vell — and that's just the beginning! A must!

**SGT. FURY #68:** Ever wonder if our stoic smokin' sarge had a family? Well, you're gonna MEET 'em — in this ish! But, if you think that's ALL that's going to happen — forget it!

**CAPT. SAVAGE #15:** "Within the Temple Waits... Death!" And, as a matter of fact, the whole Indo-Chinese jungle is crawling with danger for our Raider buddies! Dig an offbeat war mag? This is it!

**COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #22:** Want more of the F.F. — Dr. Strange — and Iron Man? You got it! PLUS, a bombshell bonus — the very first appearance of Henry Pym — the ANT-MAN!

**RAWHIDE KID #71:** The most dreaded cry of all is heard on the frontier: "Indian War!" It's Rawhide at his slugger, six-shootin' best — against the most deadly enemy in the West!

**MILLIE THE MODEL #173 and CHILI #4:** Here we are again, with two of the zingiest, zaniest, ziliest ha-ha mags in town! They're glamorous, groovy, and goofy! Try 'em!

**MAD ABOUT MILLIE #3:** Twice as much Millie-madness for less than twice the price! How can you miss? It's worth the cost alone to see how often Smiley's name appears!

## AND STILL ON SALE —

**SHIELD #13:** A nation writhes in the merriest grasp of... the SUPER-PATRO! And Nick Fury is helpless to strike back — because he's been branded a traitor! Don't miss it!

**DR. STRANGE #181:** Our magical mentor is defeated in mystic battle — not by the harrowing hordes of NIGHTMARE — but by the awesome power of his own cloak and amulet! A must!

**MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #21:** The superhero thrill of a lifetime! The original AVENGERS battling SUB-MARINER and the incredible HULK — also, a Lee-Kirby X-MEN epic extraordinaire! Plus — but that would be telling!

**MARVEL TALES #21:** Thor — the Human Torch — and Spidey make three! And, in case you hadn't guessed — we're throwing a sinister super-baddie or two at you, as well! Bargain days are here again!



Don Bolander, M.A., University of Chicago; B.S., Northwestern University; Director of Career Institute; authority on adult education

If you've ever been shamed by a mistake in English, maybe I can save you from years of disappointment.

I have met countless numbers of intelligent men and women who are being held back in their jobs and social lives, often without knowing it, because they cannot express themselves fully and easily.

## WHAT ABOUT YOU?

If people are not impressed by the way you speak and write — and if you're honest enough with yourself to admit it — you have already taken the first big step to success.

## HERE'S WHAT TO DO

You can master good English without going back to school. Over the years I have helped thousands of men and women right in their own homes.

I can help you, too, if you will give 15 minutes a day to the C.I. Method. My answers to the following questions explain why you need a command of good English and how easily you can do something about getting ahead.

**Question:** What is so important about my ability to speak and write?

## Shamed by Your English?

You can soon speak and write like a college graduate if you let me help you for 15 minutes a day.

**Answer:** People judge you by the way you speak and write, both in business and in social life.

**Question:** What does a "command of good English" mean?

**Answer:** It means you can express yourself clearly and easily without fear of embarrassment or making mistakes.

**Question:** Are there other advantages to be gained by acquiring a command of good English?

**Answer:** Yes! Words are actually "tools of thought." The more you learn about words and how to use them to form and express your ideas, the better your thinking becomes.

**Question:** Wouldn't I have to go back to school for a command of good English?

**Answer:** No, not any more. You can gain the ability to speak and write like a college graduate right in your own home in only 15 minutes each day.

**Question:** How do I know your method works?

**Answer:** There are thousands of letters in my files, testimonials from people in all walks of life who have used the proved Career Institute Method to achieve amazing results. If you send in the coupon below, I will share some of these letters with you.

**Question:** How can I find out more about the Career Institute Method?

**Answer:** I will gladly mail a free 32-page booklet to you. Just mail Coupon or send a postcard to: Don Bolander, Dept. 208-42, 555 E. Lange St., Mundelein, Ill. 60060.

DON BOLANDER, Dept. 208-42, Career Institute, 555 E. Lange St., Mundelein, Illinois 60060

Please mail me a free copy of your 32-page booklet, "How to Gain a Command of Good English."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**BIG THINGS ARE COMING FROM MARVEL! WATCH FOR EM... 'NUFF SAID!**









CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

# EVERY TIME YOU TWIST THE TWISTER...

IT CAN PUT MONEY IN YOUR POCKET!

EARN \$50-\$100-\$200 A WEEK WITH AMERICA'S NEWEST

AND WILDEST BODYBUILDING IDEA!

PROVED EFFECTIVE BY CHAMPION ATHLETES AND BODYBUILDERS!  
**The 007 POWER TWISTER!**



IT'S A PROVEN MONEY-MAKER!

USE IT — SHOW IT — DEMONSTRATE IT — AND LINE YOUR POCKET WITH INSTANT CASH!

The "007" POWER TWISTER is the most sensational exerciser to come along in years. It builds powerful arms, chest and shoulders more quickly than you can imagine — it's the FUN muscle builder that has taken the country by storm! Needs no adjustment of any kind — No fuss — Use it just as it comes out of the package.

Be the first to get in on this big profit-maker NOW! Use it yourself to pack your body with muscle and power — let your family use it, too. Sold by the hundreds of thousands, it's the greatest single exerciser ever invented — and now the greatest money-maker!

**CASH IN ON THE BIG PHYSICAL FITNESS BOOM NOW!**

Never before have people of all ages become as physical-fitness conscious as they are today. They want to look better, feel better and stronger... have the vitality and youth that makes life worth living. The "007" TWISTER will help them. Just a few minutes with

the TWISTER every day will improve your strength, health, shape and muscular development.

Here's your golden opportunity to get in on something really big! You take orders for the TWISTER in your spare time and make more money than you could possibly make with any other sales plan.

**YOUR PROSPECTS ARE EVERYWHERE!**

You don't have to go "digging" for prospects to sell the TWISTER—you'll find them everywhere because everyone wants to be physically fit. Your friends, relatives, local businessmen, schools, athletic clubs and all who know you will want the TWISTER for themselves. You show them how it easily packs inches of healthy muscle on arms, chest, shoulders and back.

**START NOW AND GROW INTO A BIG MONEY BUSINESS OF YOUR OWN!**

Just a couple of hours after school or work is all you need to start making good money selling the TWISTER. Then you can qualify for —

**OUR FABULOUS "MILLION DOLLAR" PYRAMID PLAN WHICH MAY EVEN MAKE YOU RICH!**

This amazing plan is designed so that you'll double, triple and quadruple your earnings in an unbelievably short time—

**THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!** The complete plan is given to you in detail in the FREE sales course you get when you mail the coupon below.

**YOU STOCK NO MERCHANDISE — YOU GET YOUR CASH "RIGHT ON-SPOT"!**

You take the orders, collect your big cash commissions "on-the-spot", send us the orders along with the balance on each TWISTER. We ship the TWISTERS to you, you deliver them to your customers. That's all there is to it!

**YOU ARE BACKED UP WITH NATIONAL ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY!**

We've pre-sold the TWISTER for you through our full page ads in national magazines read by millions. It's up to you to get out there and get the orders that are waiting for you!

SEND FOR YOUR FREE SALES COURSE AND KIT TODAY!

If you are interested in making more money than you've ever seen before—MAIL THE COUPON NOW and we'll send you the full, wonderful profit story and FREE sales course to start you off immediately. REMEMBER, YOU STOCK NO MERCHANDISE and you get your cash "on-the-spot." SEND NOW — get in on this "ground-floor" opportunity right away—before someone else in your area does!



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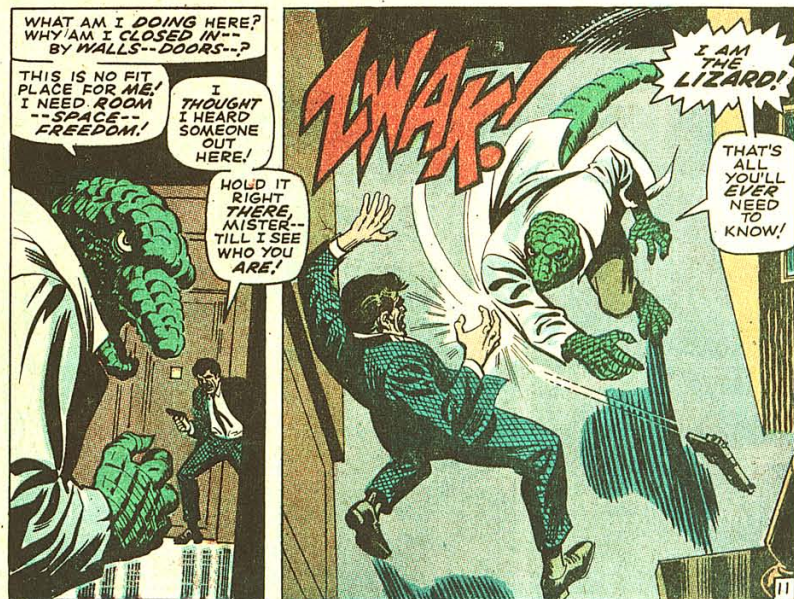
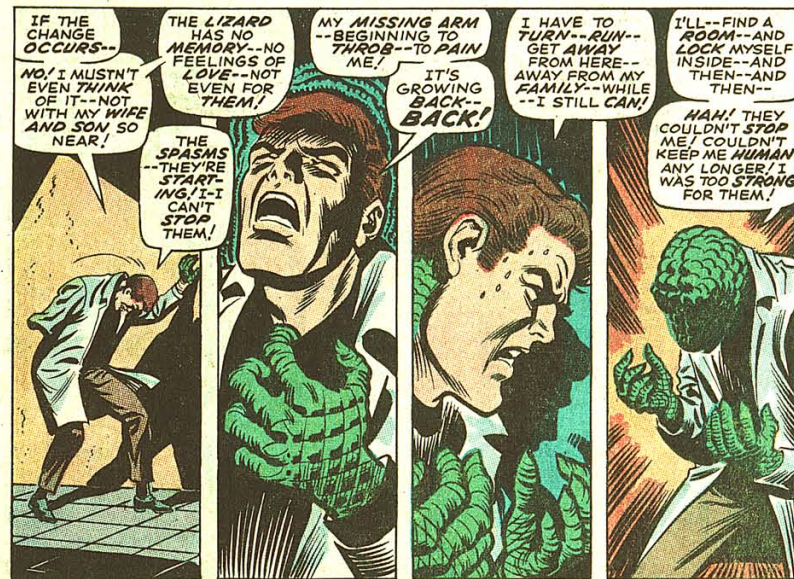
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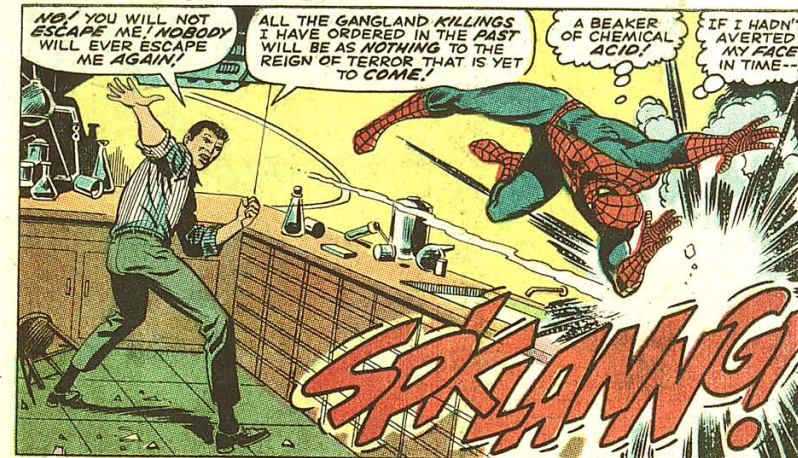
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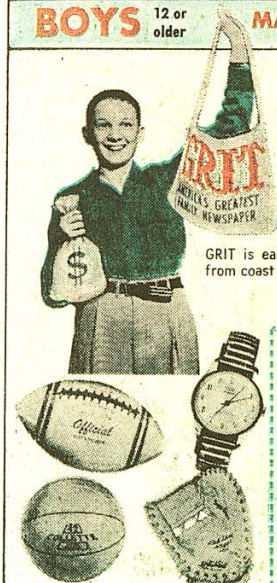
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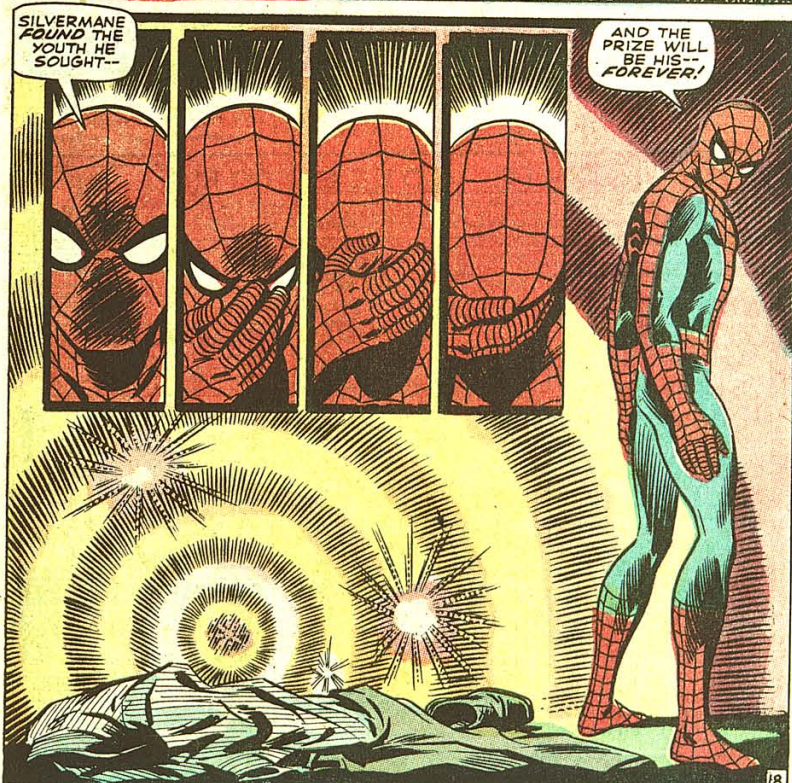
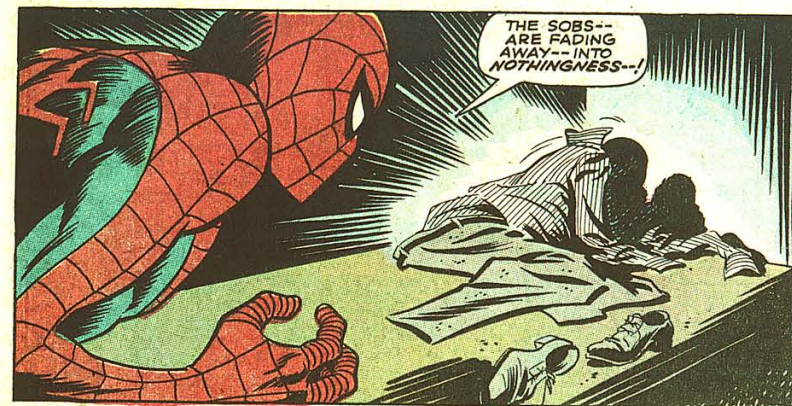
THAT  
ALONE  
WAS MY  
GOAL!

BUT--  
NOT THIS!  
NOT THIS!



THAT  
SCREAM--  
COMING  
FROM THE  
SPOT  
WHERE  
I LEFT  
SILVER  
HAIR!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE









THAT WAS WHY THE TABLET'S SECRET HAD TO BE COUCHED IN HIEROGLYPHICS--

IT WAS A SECRET TOO DANGEROUS--TOO DEADLY--FOR ANY MAN TO POSSESS!



UP AHEAD--THOSE VOICES THRU THE DOOR! I'D KNOW THEM ANYWHERE!

MRS. CONNORS! BILLY! GET BACK--STAND AWAY FROM THE DOOR--!



**CRASH!**



MOM--LOOK! IT'S SPIDER-MAN! HE'S ALIVE--HE FOUND US!

YOUR FATHER, BILLY--WHERE IS HE? WHAT HAPPENED TO DR. CONNORS?

WE DON'T KNOW! FOR A MOMENT--I DARED TO HOPE--HE WAS WITH YOU!

ANYWAY, YOU CAN BOTH COME OUT NOW!



THERE'LL BE TIME ENOUGH LATER FOR EXPLANATIONS!

BUT NOW, THE IMPORTANT THING IS--YOU'RE BOTH ALIVE--AND UNHARMED!

AND A PORTION OF THE MAGGIE'S POWER HAS BEEN STRIPPED AWAY--FOR GOOD!



BUT WHY ISN'T MY HUSBAND HERE? WHAT CAN HAVE HAPPENED TO CURT?

WE KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, MOM! BUT, IF HE DID BECOME THE LIZARD--AT LEAST SPIDER-MAN IS HERE TO HELP US!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT COULD KEEP HIM FROM US--EITHER HE'S BEEN INJURED--OR--

NO! I-I CAN'T EVEN SAY IT!



YET, LAST TIME THEY FOUGHT--SPIDER-MAN WAS ALMOST DEFEATED BY THE SUPER-POWERED LIZARD! AND NOW--THE SCALY-SKINNED STALKER IS WISER, MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER--

BUT SUDDENLY--HE HAS A FLASH OF SANITY--AS HE REMEMBERS--

MUST BOARD MYSELF IN--SO THEY'LL BE SAFE FROM ME!

MY WIFE--MY SON--I MUST NOT HARM THEM!

BUT THEN, THE MOMENT OF LUCIDITY SOON PASSES--

NO! NO! NOTHING MUST KEEP ME TRAPPED! NOTHING!

THE LIZARD WAS BORN TO FIGHT--TO ATTACK!

THE LIZARD MUST THINK OF NOTHING ELSE!



DEEP BENEATH THE BESTIAL EXTERIOR, THE ESSENCE OF DR. CONNORS STRUGGLES FOR CONTROL--STRUGGLES FOR REASON--

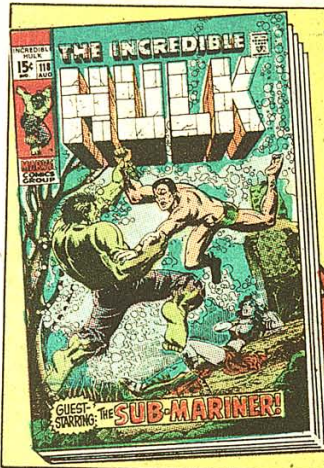
BUT, WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, HIS IDENTITY FADES--UNTIL IT IS FELT NO MORE!



ONLY THE BEAST REMAINS!

**THE LIZARD LIVES!**



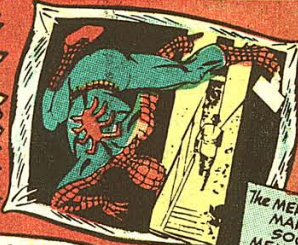


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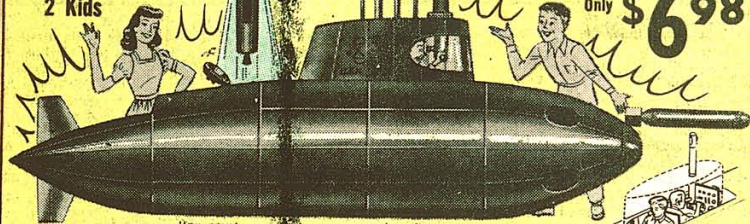
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# THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Lee,

It seems that ever since issue #39, Spider-Man has been getting weaker and weaker, not to mention much less agile. There was a time when he could knock out the Ox, who was at least as strong as the Kingpin, with one punch; and a fight against a few punk crooks would be a complete farce. If someone knocked him across the room, he would do a cartwheel or some such and gracefully manage to turn the punch into more speed and force to send him sailing through a bunch of thugs. Now, I'm not any kind of worshipper of your competitors—you know, the guys that make their heroes veritable human gods—but Spidey now seems to be no stronger than Daredevil or Captain America and much more clumsy. In the old days, he was strong enough to make himself a super-human being, but not too strong as to be an all-powerful diety. Now, he's just a normal costumed shlimp.

To make matters worse, his web was once strong enough to keep the Thing a prisoner for life. Now it seems that the web's only virtue is it's stickiness, and everyone outside of Irving Forbush can sever it—not snap it—sever it. It used to be like a thin, highly compressed steel wire, and if broken it would naturally go “snap”. Now it seem to be like a soggy strand of spaghetti, and if it's broken, it goes “thwip” or some other idiotic sound. I thought it was your competitors that used the worthless sound effects! For shame. Also gone is the Spider-signal, which although corny, always seemed to blend in nicely.

Today also, Pete doesn't have a care in the world compared to his problems of yesteryear. It's a circle. You have a hero and give him a lot of problems. Everybody (including yourself) feels sorry for him because they tend to identify with him, so you take away his problems. You're left with a crummy competitor-type hero, and you can no longer identify with him, so you give him problems again.

Give Spider-Man problems permanently! He no longer even represents a tragic figure, which he always has been supposed to represent. Who was once comicdom's Hamlet is now, in comparison, comicdom's Old King Cole. I'd better stop here; I'm breaking my own heart with nostalgia.

Gordon Matthews, 8 Perry Street  
Union City, Pa. 16438

And you'll be breaking ours with remorse and regret, Gordon.

It seems to us that, the last time we looked, Spidey had about as many problems as ever—they had just been changed around a bit, or perhaps postponed a bit (by sending Aunt May out of town, for instance).

As for his getting weaker—if this is true, it's purely the bluish'n' Bullpen's fault, and it's entirely unconscious and against our own wishes. It seems to us that he's about as strong as ever, or maybe stronger—although we kind'a figure he was only jawing when he (or was it Smiley?) said that his webbing could hold Ben Grimm a prisoner for life. Maybe it's just that crooks, like the public in general, are getting healthier.

What say the rest of you ‘merry Marchers? Is Spidey still at the peak of his power—or does he need a refresher course from Charles Atlas and crew?

Dear Stan, John, and Jim,

According to my files, the only time Spidey fought a real, down-to-earth menace was in the first phantasmagoric issues pencilled by Steve Ditko. From then on it was a series of one fantastic villain to another. I'm not saying I do not enjoy these—I think they are very creative. But, on the other hand, I would like to see my favorite (you mean there are others?) web-slinger fight a common, ordinary, not-too-well-organized gang or some safecracker who doesn't use some fantastic gizmo.

I realize the fact that in SPIDER-MAN #65 there was a jail-break, but I think this was more like something out of an old gangster movie instead of a real happening (there are very few times in which the warden is kidnapped).

In issue #68 there was a student protest which seemed factual, but then the Kingpin entered and it became a fantasy again.

I have a reason for saying that SPIDER-MAN should fight a real-type criminal or become involved in a real incident without the addition of some super-powerful villain. In AMAZING FANTASY #15 (origin issue) Uncle Ben was killed by a real criminal, and that is how Spidey got involved in crime-fighting. Then why, if disaster was caused by a common hood, should Spidey fight only super-powered enemies?

Eric Nash, 100 Bleeker St.  
New York, N.Y. 10012

But who else would be able to stand up to him, Eric?

What we've attempted to do, in such recent issues as you mention, is to mix the worlds of fantasy and reality, with neither crowding out the all-important other.

Maybe one of these first fine days, however, we're going to have to try a story even more within the realms of probability than “The Impossible Escape!” And when we do—we'll be looking hard for a few plaudits from down Bleeker Street way, hear?



## KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

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(Permanent Marvelite Maximus)—Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.

F.F.F.

(Fearless FrontFace)—An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

Dear Stan, John, and Jim,

I think everyone that's been with SPIDER-MAN for over three years, or who reads MARVEL TALES, realizes that a certain something is missing from the web-slinger's mag. Many have tried to put their fingers on it, but few have actually deduced it. Spider-Man now has a new look—a look that steals the aura of mystery that once surrounded everyone's favorite wall-crawler. Yes, once Spidey was disliked by almost everyone (except, of course, fearless Flash Thompson). Once, Spider-Man crawled the canyons of the city by night and battled deadly felons and foes with his strange and mystifying spider-like powers. The Amazing Spider-Man was a figure of controversy, and most important, a figure to be FEARED BY ALL! This image lived quite successfully with Spidey through his first 38 issues.

Issue #39 introduced a new artist and a new era. Slowly but surely, the once-fearful, once-awesome Spider-Man became just another non-entity. When people saw Spidey swinging above them, no longer did cries of “Good Heavens, it's that awful Spider-Man!” or “Run, it's Spider-Man!” ring out from the frightened citizens. Only minimum yells of “Look, it's Spidey!” or “Hey, there goes the Spider-Man!” now sound. No longer was Spidey the every-issue target of the *Daily Bugle*. No longer did Peter Parker dwell on his problems as he did before (mainly because of the fact that Peter Parker was often completely crowded out of an issue by unnecessarily large fight panels and violent battles). Yes, Peter still had as many problems as ever... it just didn't seem that way any more. Some good examples of “Peter Parkerless” issues (or near Parkerless) are #s 52, 54, 55, and 56 in the second era of Spidey.

Now we get into the third and peresent era of Spider-Man: The Spidey of today, from ish #57 up. Okay, so the artwork decreased a little more. So what? Okay, I'll admit that the characters seem more shallow today, and there's more emphasis on fighting and conflict than there is on the personal lives of Pete, Gwen, Jameson, Harry, Robbie and all the others. Big deal—it's still the same, bona fide, 100% genuine SPIDER-MAN magazine, right? Right! At least that's what Stan keeps telling us. But, if we were to show a Spideophile of 1963 a SPIDER-MAN issue of today, do you think he'd believe us?

Let's compare the early SPIDER-MAN magazine to, say, issue #70. Ah, my crystal ball shows me a nicely dressed young man of high school age with well-kept hair and appearance. I see that he is meek, and he is not well liked by his schoolmates. He does not have an easy life, and his responsibilities are greater than most boys his age have. He has to watch over his aunt, maintain a high grade-point average, and often finds himself battling villains as strange, hated Spider-Man. This young man's name is Peter Parker.

I come forward in time. Now I see a young man who is, most of the time, quite popular with his crowd. He digs all the latest “in” places and really knows how to groove with the hippest girl at ESU. He has a life which is extraordinary! Every two or three weeks he drops in to see his loving aunt at her new home. That is, when he takes time out from endlessly fighting such baddies as Kingpin, Mysterio, the Vultures, Medusa, etc. Of course, fighting, them far overshadows the well-being of his aunt who has merely devoted 20 years of her rapidly decreasing life to him. He also maintains a grade-point average which allows him to get by in college. Why, this young man's name is Peter Parker, too!

Remember those days when a fight with a baddie took up half the mag, and the other half consisted of Aunt May, Peter, Flash, Liz, Betty Brant, Jolly Jonah, and others? Unfortunately, magazines, like people, do change. Now, in following the “big panel policy”, fights take up 75% and more of the space. However, we do have a new look in keeping up with the latest

trends. We now have Mr. Robertson, his son Randy, and Josh, who might not have existed three years ago because of their color. Bravo, Marvel!

The point of this letter is this: Spider-Man cannot long exist without an evenly distributed portion of Peter Parker and company. And, vice-versa. Some good points that Spidey now has that he didn't have are the fact that the magazine now recognizes national problems and is more realistic in portraying blacks and other minorities. One thing that Spidey used to have that it now sorely lacks is more Peter Parker. If you can blend all of this into one magazine today, the SPIDER-MAN will really be... amazing!

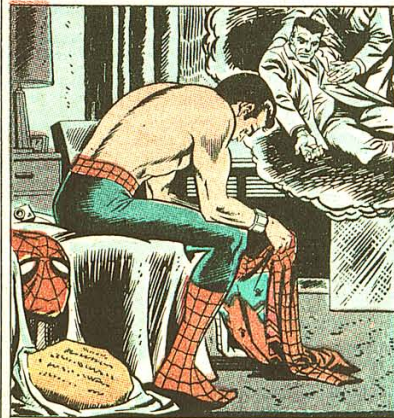
Steve Games, 2737 SE 162nd Ave.  
Portland, Ore.

Frankly, Steve, your carefully phrased, well-thought-out letter left us feeling just a wee bit limp and shopworn. Is it really true that the problem-laden life of Peter Parker has been all but crowded out of existence by the “new”, third-wave Spider-Man? Are there many others out there who feel that the razzle-dazzle artwork of Johnny Romita (aided and abetted by Jim Mooney) has led to action overshadowing the often agonizing story of a young man's trials? Has Smilin' Stan, too, lost the deft touch that has made Spidey one of the most unique comic-mag characters of all time?

To be perfectly honest, we don't quite think so—if anything, we feel that our wondrous wall-crawler is more popular in his unpopularity today than ever before—and a legion of fans seem ready to back us up on it.

Still, now that the subject's out in the open—now that one long-time Spidey reader who cares has voiced his considered opinion—let's hear what the rest of Marveldom Assembled has to say on the matter.

We'll print the most interesting missives—pro and con—right here in the months to come! We feel that, even more than ever, SPIDER-MAN is right up there battling with the far-famed F.F. for the title of “The World's Greatest Comics Magazine!”—but if you don't agree and you hold your peace—well, don't say we didn't ask, pilgrim!



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